

[Short Communication]

**Additional records of Japanese species of the genus *Robertus* (Araneae: Theridiidae), with removal of a species as a junior synonym of *Leptorhoptrum robustum* (Linyphiidae)**

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**Abstract** — Collecting data newly obtained of two Japanese species belonging to the family Theridiidae, *Robertus nojimai* Yoshida 2002 and *R. ogatai* Yoshida 1995, are presented. *Robertus yasudai* Yoshida 2001 is newly synonymized with *Leptorhoptrum robustum* (Westring 1851) belonging to Linyphiidae.

**Key words** — *Robertus*, Theridiidae, additional record, new synonymy, *Leptorhoptrum robustum*, Japan

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The genus *Robertus* is a group of theridiid spiders occurring in the Holarctic region, comprising more than 40 species in the world (Yoshida 2003). In this genus, a total of seven species have been described or recorded from Japan (Ono et al. 1985; Yoshida 1995, 2001, 2002, 2003; Matsuda 1997). Probably due to their small size (less than 4 mm) and their secluded life in soil litter on the forest floor, known records of them in Japan are rather scarce. To complement the records, I will present here some additional data for two species, *Robertus nojimai* Yoshida 2002 and *R. ogatai* Yoshida 1995 based on newly collected specimens.

On the other hand, male specimens described under the name of *Robertus yasudai* Yoshida 2001 were found to be conspecific with a linyphiid spider, *Leptorhoptrum robustum* (Westring 1851) as presented below. As a result, the number of Japanese species of *Robertus* will be six.

Before going further, I wish to express my sincere thanks to Prof. Takahide Kamura, Otemon Gakuin University, Osaka, and Mr. Koichi Nojima, Osaka, for offering many specimens used in this paper, and to Drs. Theo Blick, Germany, Yuri M. Marusik, Russia, and Akio Tanikawa, Tokyo, for their kind advices.

*Robertus* O. Pickard-Cambridge 1879 (Theridiidae)  
[Japanese name: Morihimegumo Zoku]

*Robertus* O. Pickard-Cambridge 1879, p. 103 (Type species: *Robertus neglectus* O. Pickard-Cambridge 1879).

*Robertus nojimai* Yoshida 2002  
[Japanese name: Nojima-morihimegumo]

*Robertus nojimai* Yoshida 2002, p. 136, figs. 4–9 (holotype: ♂ from Mt. Yukasan, Kurashiki-shi, Okayama Prefecture, Japan, 3-II-1996, Koichi Nojima leg., NSMT-Ar 5268); Yoshida 2003, p. 206, figs. 596–601.

**Notes.** In my previous papers (Yoshida 2002, 2003), I recorded this species from Shiga, Okayama and Tottori Prefectures in Honshu. Additional specimens from Gifu and Shiga Prefectures were recently offered by Koichi Nojima and Takahide Kamura.

There are small differences between Okayama-Tottori and Shiga-Gifu specimens in the shape of the genital organs. Male palpus of Shiga-Gifu specimens has a largely swollen conductor and a small triangular projection at the apical part of tegulum, but they seem to be geographical variations.

**Specimens examined** (Addition to Yoshida 2002, 2003). 2♂, Sekigahara, 11-VI-2003, 1♀, Tama, 26-V-2003, Sekigahara-cho, Fuwa-gun, Gifu Prefecture, Japan, Koichi Nojima leg.; 1♂, Aburahi, Kôga-cho, Kôga-gun, Shiga Prefecture, 10-V-2003, Takahide Kamura leg.

**Distribution.** Japan: Honshu (Gifu, Shiga, Okayama and Tottori Prefectures).

*Robertus ogatai* Yoshida 1995  
[Japanese name: Ogata-morihimegumo]

*Robertus ogatai* Yoshida 1995, p. 156, figs. 7–10 (holotype: ♂ from Unryû-keikoku, Nikko-shi, Tochigi Prefecture, Japan, 25-V-1984, Hiroshi Saito leg., NSMT-Ar 3316); Yoshida 2001, p. 37; Yoshida 2003, p. 30, figs. 40–43.

**Notes.** This species has been recorded from only three localities: Tohoku, Kanto and Chubu Districts, respectively (Yoshida 1995, 2003). I newly record the species from Nara Prefecture, Kinki District. The specimens were offered by Takahide Kamura. Though the collecting records are scarce, this species seems to occur widely in Honshu.

**Specimens examined** (Addition to Yoshida 1995, 2003). 2♂, Odaigahara, Kami-kitayama-mura, Yoshino-gun, Nara Prefecture, 9–12-VI-2000, Akiyoshi Ueda leg.

**Distribution.** Japan: Honshu (Yamagata, Tochigi, Nagano and Nara Prefectures).

*Leptorhoptrum* Kulczyński 1894 (Linyphiidae)

[Japanese name: Yasuda-saragumo Zoku]

*Leptorhoptrum* Kulczyński in Chyzer & Kulczyński 1894, p. 79  
(Type species: *Erigone robusta* Westring 1851).

*Leptorhoptrum robustum* (Westring 1851)

[Japanese name: Yasuda-saragumo]

*Erigone robusta* Westring 1851, p. 43.

*Leptorhoptrum huthwaiti*: Kulczyński in Chyzer & Kulczyński  
1894, p. 79, pl. 2, fig. 20.

*Leptorhoptrum robustum*: Roberts 1985, pl. 204; Roberts 1987,  
p. 104, fig. 50a; Mikhailov 1997, p. 77.

*Robertus yasudai* Yoshida 2001, p. 34, figs. 7–11 (holotype: ♂  
from Mt. Tomuraushi 1970 m alt., Mts. Daisetsu, Hokkaido,  
Japan, 5-VIII-1992, Nobuki Yasuda leg., NSMT-Ar 4951);  
Yoshida 2003, p. 28, figs. 29–33. **New Synonymy**

*Notes.* *Robertus yasudai* Yoshida 2001 was described  
by myself based on a male collected from high altitudinal  
mountain in Hokkaido, Japan, but is recognized as a junior  
synonym of this species. Theo Blick, Germany, Yuri M.  
Marusik, Russia, and Akio Tanikawa, Tokyo, suggested this  
synonymy. *Leptorhoptrum robustum* is widely distributed  
from Europe to Sakhalin and the Kurile Islands, but has not  
been known from Japan.

*Distribution.* Japan: Hokkaido. Europe, Siberia,  
Sakhalin and Kurile Islands.

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